



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 07 2016

South Gate Community Environmental Health Assessment Team
South Gate, CA

Dear South Gate Community Environmental Health Assessment Team:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I want to express our sincere appreciation for the work of the South Gate Community Environmental Health Assessment Team (CEHAT), as part of the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) process, in helping the South Gate community identify local environmental health issues, set priorities, and guide the creation and implementation of a plan of action to address the identified issues from the community's perspective.

This past year, the CEHAT made significant progress towards its goal "to contribute to make a South Gate that is beautiful, safe, educated, represented, healthy, sustainable, prosperous, clean, and united." The impressive accomplishments of the CEHAT include: developing a list of community-specific environmental health issues; providing data on community concerns, knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and perceptions through formal and informal surveys; helping to recruit and train volunteers to conduct surveys; analyzing the prioritized issues within a systems framework; and increasing the community's environmental health awareness through community workshops and outreach events such as the Tweedy Mile Fair and the free community education workshops held in July 2015.

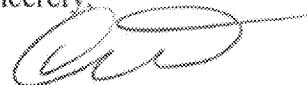
The CEHAT continues to reach notable milestones in support of the South Gate community as they develop standards to measure their progress and plan for actions to address their self-identified priorities. To that end, we recognize the significant amount of resources that each member of the CEHAT has dedicated to the PACE EH process. EPA believes that the success enjoyed by the CEHAT during the past months is due to the time and energy of the members and the support and cooperation of the many participants – community members, business owners, local, state, and federal agencies, and the City of South Gate – and we commend the CEHAT for creating an environment that brings this diverse and collaborative team together.

As you consider the CEHAT's path going forward, please keep in mind that the EPA will remain focused on engaging and educating the community in our work on the Cooper Drum, Southern Avenue Industrial Area, and Jervis Webb Superfund sites. EPA places great importance on community involvement and engagement, and through our participation in the CEHAT,

EPA is committed to answering questions that arise, providing site updates, bringing EPA programs other than Superfund into discussions as appropriate, engaging with the community to ensure community voices are heard, and physically participating in monthly CEHAT meetings.

Thank you for your continued involvement in the community of South Gate. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Karen Jurist of my staff at jurist.karen@epa.gov or by phone at 415-972-3219.

Sincerely,



Enrique Manzanilla
Director, Superfund Division